

THE CAMPUS VOICE

GREEN
FIELD

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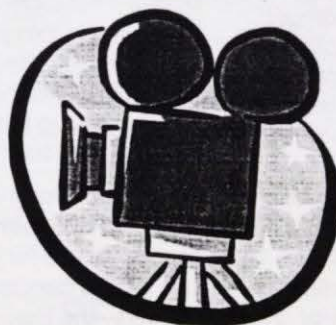
DICK LITTLE TO GSA: "GO HOLLYWOOD!"

Dick Little, Professor of Geology, will be a co-convenor of a symposium session at the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America meeting in March at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Entitled "Go Hollywood: Create High Quality Videos for Your Classroom and Beyond," the symposium seeks to inspire teachers to produce their own geoscience videos.

"The idea of actually making a movie—that used to be something that only Hollywood did!" Funded by STEMTEC and the Pioneer Valley Institute, with matching funds from Greenfield Community College, Dick's previous productions include the highly acclaimed

"The Flow of Time," and a work-in-progress on the Pioneer Valley's glacial Lake Hitchcock.

"There's just such a lack of local information," Dick says. "So to be able to take people to an actual site and say, 'This is what's here and here's how it fits into the story of the area that you know'—that's really powerful!" Local people who have the knowledge and the willingness to get into this type of educational production, says Dick, hold the key to unlocking these mysteries for people. Dick credits digital video cameras, digital editing on the computer, high memory computers, and video editing software such as Premiere with put-



Dick Little puts movie-making within the reach of the average teacher.

ting movie-making within the reach of the average teacher. "What I'm going to do is, one, show people what you can do with these tools and, two, illustrate how a noncomputer-type person like me is doing this. Hopefully, this will be a springboard to show people what they can do in their own communities."

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Special points of interest:

- Bread baker, square dance caller, costumer, weaver, beekeeper, juggler, meditative archer—find out who's what inside! (p. 2)
- Nobody said it would be easy or fun, but turning the spotlight on ourselves is a valuable exercise. (p. 3)

MUSIC BY GEORGE SOULOS ACCLAIMED AT VOCAL MASTER CLASS

"Theodora, the Lady Cat," composed by George Soulos, Professor of Music, to poetry by Pat Dobler, was performed at Smith College by soprano Katherine Kaiser. The event, sponsored by the Western Mass. Chapter of the Nat'l. Assoc. of Teachers

of Singing, was a Master Class critiqued by renowned soprano Helen Boatwright. Boatwright has been acclaimed with first performances and recordings of songs by Charles Ives, Ernst Bacon, and Aaron Copland. She includes Soulos on her

list of 20th century American composers of vocal music which is distributed through the NATS. Soprano Cheryl Cobb, Professor of Voice at Mt. Holyoke College, will perform Soulos' entire set of Three Cat Songs at her faculty recital this spring.

MORE NEW FACES



Bob Barba, Temporary Director of Community Services. Bob Barba is one of two new faces in the Community Services office at the GCC Downtown Center. Bob brings a teaching background from the Franklin-Hampshire Workers Assistance Program, where he worked with clients retooling for new careers or further education (like at GCC!). Here at Community Services, Bob says "I have figured out about half of what I'm doing! It's extremely challenging because we're all new here."

In his so-called spare time, Bob indulges his passion for writing. A current project involves a literacy curriculum he developed that brings students' home life into the academic classroom. Bob's other passion is bread baking! The secret of good bread? "It takes a long time to make it. It takes 48 hours to make a good loaf of sourdough and most people don't have the patience. They take shortcuts, and you always lose flavor when you take shortcuts. Especially with sourdough: a long, slow ferment creates more interesting flavor." Bob shared his favorite recipe for a wheat loaf. E-mail the editor, harris@gcc.mass.edu, if you'd like a copy!

Gail Villeneuve is the other new face in Community Services—but *not* a new voice! Gail's was one of the familiar voices in the GCC Dispatch Center. "I got to know everyone! Being on the telephone, you get to know who's who; you may not know faces, but you know voices and who belongs where and who reports to who. So I think the biggest thing I bring is a working knowledge of the College and who people are."

A GCC alum from "the good 'ol days" ('71), Gail and husband George, a supervisor at Yankee Candle, live in her home town of Montague. Gail's passions include Yoshi, the newest member of the Villeneuve family, and theater. Gail does costuming and make-up for Ja'duke Productions, a resident theater company at The Shea.

Doug Wilkins, Instructor in Business Information Technology. Not exactly a new face, Doug has been teaching computer courses evenings since the early '80s, "back in the old VisiCalc days of the Apple 2-e's!" These days, Doug is full time, teaching two courses and administering the new National Science Foundation Grant. "The goal is to at least double the number of students heading into information technology." His biggest challenge? "There are so many things going on at the same time; it's like juggling a lot of different balls and trying to make sure they all stay up in the air, which is challenging—and fun!"

Off the job, Doug indulges a love of square dance calling. "I've been calling square dances for years in the area, called barn dances. These days I call at the fairs—the Heath Fair, Cummington Fair, and occasionally at community halls around the area. I also enjoy singing with kids. I'll probably bring my guitar into the preschool head start program in the near future."

Robin Howard is the Adaptive Equipment Technical Support Person in Computer Services. "There is specialized hardware and software for people with disabilities or differences, and I maintain the hardware and software." The most satisfying part of her job, says Robin, is helping people become more comfortable with the academic computing environment. A GCC alum, Robin is taking math courses with an eye towards a technical bachelor's degree, narrowly edging out plans for a fiber arts degree. These days Robin is active in an on-line community of spinners and weavers. A recent project was a shawl for which she spun a special yarn that has little holographic (sparkly) fibers in it. Robin's son Levi goes to GCC's head start classroom. "We come to one place mornings—I can come down and take him to lunch if I want. It's nice to be a GCC family."

Susan McCaffrey, Accountant II. Susan brings an administrative academic background from International Languages Institute in Northampton, and UMass. Plus, she has been a student both at GCC and at UMass. "So I have seen the education bureaucracy from both sides," she says—and GCC comes out on top! "It's a very great treasure for this area to have this school."

Susan has lived in Wendell since the mid-'70s, and enjoys "the interesting mix of people. It's a town meeting kind of town, and the thing that appeals to me about Wendell is that if you want to participate in any way, everything's really open to you. It's one of the first places to have women on the fire department, for example." Susan's contribution has involved assisting with computer installation, maintenance and training at the town library. Susan's other past-time is Kyudo, which is traditional Japanese meditation archery. Says Susan, "I was lucky enough to find an excellent teacher in Amherst named Marion Taylor, who is a senior student of Shibata XX, Sensei, twentieth in the family lineage of bowmakers to the emperors of Japan."

Brian Adams, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies. "I honestly think I've got the best job in the world. One, I love to teach, and two, I get to be outside with my students. We do a lot of reading of the forest landscape, we do vegetative analysis, tracking, tree identification, water quality analysis—the world is our lab!" At home, with wife Morey Phippen and children Taylor and Casey, Brian is a beekeeper. "This was a good year for honey! We got a hundred pounds this year; we give it away. Anyone wants honey—see me!"

Summers, Brian goes on wilderness canoe trips with his brother. "This year we're doing a 150-mile canoe trip on the Upper Missouri in Montana, recreating Lewis and Clark's voyage. "Your muscles ache and your body wants to stop, but that's part of the adventure!"



TELLING ALL: STANDARD 10

"Public Disclosure" is the self-study focus of Standard 10, and Dennis Koonz, who designs and produces GCC publications, heads up a subcommittee including Paul Lindale, multimedia instructor; Laurie Gullion, former journalist and head of the Outdoor Leadership Program; Heather Hoyt, registrar, and Jeff Galbraith, business ethics and management, assigned to evaluate how the College presents information to students and to the interested public. "We need to be factual," stresses Dennis Koonz, "because [the accrediting committee] will dig and they will find these issues out for themselves."

The committee has just completed the appraisal phase of their work, which consisted of student surveys administered by the Student Senate (day students) and Pat Simanski (evening students); faculty and staff surveys; and interviews with senior administrative staff. The results of the surveys show both strengths and weaknesses of the College in the areas of Public Disclosures. Strengths include:

- Generally speaking, the College does well or extremely well at providing information that is accurate and clear;
- The College catalog accurately portrays the institution;
- "What to Expect" and posters provide timely information about College activities and issues;

• Publications and the web site are consistent with the College catalog.

Weaknesses include:

- Incomplete information regarding parameters affecting students with disabilities.
- General editing is needed on student grievance policies as outlined in the student handbook
- Courses which have not been taught for more than two years are still listed in the catalog;
- Credentials of part-time, adjunct faculty are not published;
- It is not always clear to the local media who the official media contact of the College is, sometimes resulting in unclear and conflicting information to the local media.

Feedback from a recent Professional Day indicates that marketing, publications and public relations at GCC should be more systematic. Says Dennis, "There is a consensus that individuals and offices rise to the occasion, despite limited strategy and lack of a coordinated ap-

proach to the functions of marketing and public relations."

The results of the appraisal phase are presently being evaluated by an independent consultant, Richard J. Cronin,

Director of Marketing at Massachusetts Community College since 1986, who offers over twenty years of experience in the public and private sector. Cronin will also be interviewing the local media outlets as part of his evaluation.

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"If I had to summarize what we've found," says Dennis, "it'd be that people tend to get things done because they are self-motivated and work together. But there does seem to be a need for more centralized ownership of information and intracampus coordination among the various departments responsible for generating and dispersing information to students and to the general public."

"In the projection phase that we're getting into, our subcommittee will be making recommendations on how to address some of these weaknesses."

MORE NEW FACES, CONTINUED

Sandy Rhoades, Associate Professor of Mathematics. "My passion in life? I like teaching people mathematics! I'm fascinated with finding different ways to engage people in doing mathematics. There's an old quote, 'Math isn't a spectator sport.' So if you were to walk into one of my classes you'd see people doing mathematics, talking about it to one another and working problems together." Outside the classroom, you're

apt to catch Sandy juggling (Ask her to teach you!) or contradancing at the Grange in Greenfield. "Contradancing is very mathematical, actually, because the group of dancers is following a set of patterns and repeating the same, intricate patterns over and over again. And it's social dancing—you're in contact with more than just one person; you're really working as a whole group."

Linda Cavanaugh, Professor of Mathematics. *She's ba-a-ack* (but you knew that!), with her passion for teaching renewed and enriched by last year's sabbatical. Come spring, join Linda for some bike-riding. "I'd love to see people here get together and do some more bike riding as a group. It's a great way to exercise and have fun at the same time."



GCC FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Greenfield Community College
One College Drive
Greenfield, MA 01301



The Campus Voice is distributed during the academic year by the President's Office to faculty and staff of Greenfield Community College and the GCC Foundation, and to the trustees of Greenfield Community College. Please share your news with your GCC colleagues by contacting Chris Harris, editor, in any of the following ways: Call 413/498-2133; fax to 413/498-2232; e-mail to harris@gcc.mass.edu or crharris@crocker.com. We welcome your submissions!

OFF CAMPUS... FRED AGNIR: IMPRESARIO IN OUR MIDST!

[Editor: GCC folks leave their mark on their communities as well as on campus. First in a series.]

"You have to be an organizer, you have to be a psychologist, you have to be a friend—you have to be everything!" says Fred Agnir, GCC Professor of Speech and Communications, and producer of the Green Room Players.

Since 1994, Fred and Ruby Agnir have been producing theatrical productions on a shoestring budget and supporting charities such as ALS at the same time.

Fred's role in the Green Room Players quickly escalated from supportive husband to producer! "What the producer does is all behind the scenes," says Fred. Like putting the budget together, recruiting stagehands, carpenters, lighting technicians, sound engineers, musicians—"You name it!"

Every season begins with an appeal to sponsors. "I write a lot of letters to different people telling them about the cause we're supporting. There are really two selling points: One, it's for a good cause, and two, our volunteers gain valuable

experience, and many go on to careers in the theater."

Over the years, the productions have grown more ambitious. "More expensive, too!" notes Fred. This summer's production is the hit musical, *Grease*. "But we've reached the point now where we are confident that we have the sponsors and the reputation to pull this off."

The conventional wisdom is that musicals are not money-makers—you're lucky to break even. But Fred and Ruby have honed their own formula for making money. "You have to have the right combination of luck, an idea, energy and a cause—and I think all of those things come together for us."

Sponsors are part of the formula; paid advertising is another part; sensible budgeting is a large part, and volunteers are the final, crucial component.

"It's patient work, looking for the right kind of people who will make a commitment and then cajoling and so on. Some of them will join you because they are your friends; some will join you because they see an opportunity to advance themselves; some of them will join you because they believe in your cause. It's fun, it's exciting, it's a lot of work—and you learn so much about human nature along the way."

"I think we are luckier than most producers and directors because we have a larger share of people who come just because they love to help out. I would say it's a bunch of people who like each other, who love to work together, and who are not as competitive as a lot of theater people tend to be."

The Green Room Players are one of four resident theater companies at The Shea in Turners Falls (now air-conditioned!). Don't miss next summer's production of *Grease*!

